

CLAIMS

1. A vacuum cleaner of the kind having a base (1, 1') including floor-cleaning arrangement, a housing (3, 3') mounted above the base for collecting material cleaned from the floor and a handle (6, 6') by which a user can manoeuvre the cleaner, the cleaner including a hose assembly (10, 10') having a first end (17, 17') attached with the cleaner towards the lower end of the cleaner and a second, free end (19), characterised in that the hose assembly includes a hose (11, 11') of the kind having a natural extended length and that can be retracted to a shorter length by occluding passage of air through the hose assembly towards its free end (19), that the assembly includes a tubular wand (12, 12') slidable coaxially relative to the hose such that the hose and wand can be stowed on the cleaner, and that the cleaner includes an arrangement (21, 21') for receiving the stowed hose assembly in a generally vertical orientation.
2. A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 1, characterised in that the wand (12) is slidable inside the hose (11).
3. A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 1, characterised in that the wand (12) is slidable outside the hose (11').
4. A vacuum cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the wand (12, 12') includes a manually-operable valve (20, 20') by which passage of air along the hose assembly (10, 10') can be occluded.
5. A vacuum cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the length of the wand (12, 12') is substantially the same as that of the hose (11, 11') when retracted.

6. A vacuum cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the arrangement for receiving the stowed hose assembly (10, 10') includes a fitting (21, 21') on the cleaner adapted to engage the free end (19) of the wand (12, 12').
7. A vacuum cleaner according to Claim 6, characterised in that the fitting (21, 21') is on the handle (6, 6') of the cleaner.
8. A vacuum cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the wand (12, 12') has a flange (18, 18') at one end adapted to engage and seal with a flange (15, 15') towards the free end of the hose (11, 11') when the wand is in a fully extended position.
9. A hose assembly (10, 10') for a vacuum cleaner according to any one of the preceding claims.